

1 AN ACT relating to suicide prevention training.

2 ***Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Kentucky:***

3 ➔Section 1. KRS 156.095 is amended to read as follows:

4 (1) The Kentucky Department of Education shall establish, direct, and maintain a
5 statewide program of professional development to improve instruction in the public
6 schools.

7 (2) Each local school district superintendent shall appoint a certified school employee
8 to fulfill the role and responsibilities of a professional development coordinator who
9 shall disseminate professional development information to schools and personnel.
10 Upon request by a school council or any employees of the district, the coordinator
11 shall provide technical assistance to the council or the personnel that may include
12 assisting with needs assessments, analyzing school data, planning and evaluation
13 assistance, organizing districtwide programs requested by school councils or groups
14 of teachers, or other coordination activities.

15 (a) The manner of appointment, qualifications, and other duties of the
16 professional development coordinator shall be established by Kentucky Board
17 of Education through promulgation of administrative regulations.

18 (b) The local district professional development coordinator shall participate in the
19 Kentucky Department of Education annual training program for local school
20 district professional development coordinators. The training program may
21 include, but not be limited to, the demonstration of various approaches to
22 needs assessment and planning; strategies for implementing long-term,
23 school-based professional development; strategies for strengthening teachers'
24 roles in the planning, development, and evaluation of professional
25 development; and demonstrations of model professional development
26 programs. The training shall include information about teacher learning
27 opportunities relating to the core content standards. The Kentucky Department

1 of Education shall regularly collect and distribute this information.

2 (3) The Kentucky Department of Education shall provide or facilitate optional,
3 professional development programs for certified personnel throughout the
4 Commonwealth that are based on the statewide needs of teachers, administrators,
5 and other education personnel. Programs may include classified staff and parents
6 when appropriate. Programs offered or facilitated by the department shall be at
7 locations and times convenient to local school personnel and shall be made
8 accessible through the use of technology when appropriate. They shall include
9 programs that: address the goals for Kentucky schools as stated in KRS 158.6451,
10 including reducing the achievement gaps as determined by an equity analysis of the
11 disaggregated student performance data from the state assessment program
12 developed under KRS 158.6453; engage educators in effective learning processes
13 and foster collegiality and collaboration; and provide support for staff to incorporate
14 newly acquired skills into their work through practicing the skills, gathering
15 information about the results, and reflecting on their efforts. Professional
16 development programs shall be made available to teachers based on their needs
17 which shall include but not be limited to the following areas:

- 18 (a) Strategies to reduce the achievement gaps among various groups of students
19 and to provide continuous progress;
- 20 (b) Curriculum content and methods of instruction for each content area,
21 including differentiated instruction;
- 22 (c) School-based decision making;
- 23 (d) Assessment literacy;
- 24 (e) Integration of performance-based student assessment into daily classroom
25 instruction;
- 26 (f) Nongraded primary programs;
- 27 (g) Research-based instructional practices;

- 1 (h) Instructional uses of technology;
- 2 (i) Curriculum design to serve the needs of students with diverse learning styles
- 3 and skills and of students of diverse cultures;
- 4 (j) Instruction in reading, including phonics, phonemic awareness,
- 5 comprehension, fluency, and vocabulary;
- 6 (k) Educational leadership; and
- 7 (l) Strategies to incorporate character education throughout the curriculum.
- 8 (4) The department shall assist school personnel in assessing the impact of professional
- 9 development on their instructional practices and student learning.
- 10 (5) The department shall assist districts and school councils with the development of
- 11 long-term school and district improvement plans that include multiple strategies for
- 12 professional development based on the assessment of needs at the school level.
- 13 (a) Professional development strategies may include, but are not limited to,
- 14 participation in subject matter academies, teacher networks, training institutes,
- 15 workshops, seminars, and study groups; collegial planning; action research;
- 16 mentoring programs; appropriate university courses; and other forms of
- 17 professional development.
- 18 (b) In planning the use of the four (4) days for professional development under
- 19 KRS 158.070, school councils and districts shall give priority to programs that
- 20 increase teachers' understanding of curriculum content and methods of
- 21 instruction appropriate for each content area based on individual school plans.
- 22 The district may use up to one (1) day to provide district-wide training and
- 23 training that is mandated by state or federal law. Only those employees
- 24 identified in the mandate or affected by the mandate shall be required to attend
- 25 the training.
- 26 (c) State funds allocated for professional development shall be used to support
- 27 professional development initiatives that are consistent with local school

1 improvement and professional development plans and teachers' individual
2 growth plans. The funds may be used throughout the year for all staff,
3 including classified and certified staff and parents on school councils or
4 committees. A portion of the funds allocated to each school council under
5 KRS 160.345 may be used to prepare or enhance the teachers' knowledge and
6 teaching practices related to the content and subject matter that are required
7 for their specific classroom assignments.

8 (6) (a) By August 1, 2010, the Kentucky Cabinet for Health and Family Services
9 shall post on its Web page suicide prevention awareness information, to
10 include recognizing the warning signs of a suicide crisis. The Web page shall
11 include information related to suicide prevention training opportunities
12 offered by the cabinet or an agency recognized by the cabinet as a training
13 provider.

14 (b) By September 15, 2018~~[1, 2010]~~, and September 15~~[1]~~ of each year thereafter,
15 every public middle and high school administrator shall disseminate suicide
16 prevention awareness information to all middle and high school students. The
17 information may be obtained from the Cabinet for Health and Family Services
18 or from a commercially developed suicide prevention training program.

19 (c) 1. Beginning with the 2018-2019 school year, and every other year
20 thereafter, a minimum of two (2) hours of high-quality suicide
21 prevention training shall be required for all high school and middle
22 school principals, guidance counselors, and teachers. The training
23 shall be provided in-person and included in the four (4) days of
24 professional development under KRS 158.070.
25 2. When a staff member subject to the training under subparagraph 1. of
26 this paragraph is initially hired during a school year in which the
27 training is not required, the local district shall provide suicide

1 *prevention materials to the staff member for review.*

- 2 (7) (a) The Kentucky Department of Education shall develop and maintain a list of
3 approved comprehensive evidence-informed trainings on child abuse and
4 neglect prevention, recognition, and reporting that encompass child physical,
5 sexual, and emotional abuse and neglect.
- 6 (b) The trainings shall be Web-based or in-person and cover, at a minimum, the
7 following topics:
- 8 1. Recognizing child physical, sexual, and emotional abuse and neglect;
9 2. Reporting suspected child abuse and neglect in Kentucky as required by
10 KRS 620.030 and the appropriate documentation;
11 3. Responding to the child; and
12 4. Understanding the response of child protective services.
- 13 (c) The trainings shall include a questionnaire or other basic assessment tool upon
14 completion to document basic knowledge of training components.
- 15 (d) Each local school board shall adopt one (1) or more trainings from the list
16 approved by the Department of Education to be implemented by schools.
- 17 (e) All current school administrators, certified personnel, office staff,
18 instructional assistants, and coaches and extracurricular sponsors who are
19 employed by the school district shall complete the implemented training or
20 trainings by January 31, 2017, and then every two (2) years after.
- 21 (f) All school administrators, certified personnel, office staff, instructional
22 assistants, and coaches and extracurricular sponsors who are employed by the
23 school district hired after January 31, 2017, shall complete the implemented
24 training or trainings within ninety (90) days of being hired and then every two
25 (2) years after.
- 26 (g) Every public school shall prominently display the statewide child abuse
27 hotline number administered by the Cabinet for Health and Family Services,

1 and the National Human Trafficking Reporting Hotline number administered
2 by the United States Department for Health and Human Services.

3 (8) The Department of Education shall establish an electronic consumer bulletin board
4 that posts information regarding professional development providers and programs
5 as a service to school district central office personnel, school councils, teachers, and
6 administrators. Participation on the electronic consumer bulletin board shall be
7 voluntary for professional development providers or vendors, but shall include all
8 programs sponsored by the department. Participants shall provide the following
9 information: program title; name of provider or vendor; qualifications of the
10 presenters or instructors; objectives of the program; program length; services
11 provided, including follow-up support; costs for participation and costs of materials;
12 names of previous users of the program, addresses, and telephone numbers; and
13 arrangements required. Posting information on the bulletin board by the department
14 shall not be viewed as an endorsement of the quality of any specific provider or
15 program.

16 (9) The Department of Education shall provide training to address the characteristics
17 and instructional needs of students at risk of school failure and most likely to drop
18 out of school. The training shall be developed to meet the specific needs of all
19 certified and classified personnel depending on their relationship with these
20 students. The training for instructional personnel shall be designed to provide and
21 enhance skills of personnel to:

- 22 (a) Identify at-risk students early in elementary schools as well as at-risk and
23 potential dropouts in the middle and high schools;
24 (b) Plan specific instructional strategies to teach at-risk students;
25 (c) Improve the academic achievement of students at risk of school failure by
26 providing individualized and extra instructional support to increase
27 expectations for targeted students;

- 1 (d) Involve parents as partners in ways to help their children and to improve their
2 children's academic progress; and
- 3 (e) Significantly reduce the dropout rate of all students.
- 4 (10) The department shall establish teacher academies to the extent funding is available
5 in cooperation with postsecondary education institutions for elementary, middle
6 school, and high school faculty in core disciplines, utilizing facilities and faculty
7 from universities and colleges, local school districts, and other appropriate agencies
8 throughout the state. Priority for participation shall be given to those teachers who
9 are teaching core discipline courses for which they do not have a major or minor or
10 the equivalent. Participation of teachers shall be voluntary.
- 11 (11) The department shall annually provide to the oversight council established in KRS
12 15A.063, the information received from local schools pursuant to KRS 158.449.
- 13 ➔Section 2. KRS 158.070 is amended to read as follows:
- 14 (1) As used in this section:
- 15 (a) "Election" has the same meaning as in KRS 121.015;
- 16 (b) "Minimum school term" or "school term" means not less than one hundred
17 eighty-five (185) days composed of the student attendance days, teacher
18 professional days, and holidays;
- 19 (c) "School calendar" means the document adopted by a local board of education
20 that establishes the minimum school term, student instructional year or
21 variable student instructional year, and days that school will not be in session;
- 22 (d) "School district calendar committee" means a committee consisting of:
- 23 1. One (1) school district principal;
- 24 2. One (1) school district office administrator other than the
25 superintendent;
- 26 3. One (1) member of the local board of education;
- 27 4. Two (2) parents of students attending a school in the district;

- 1 5. One (1) school district elementary school teacher;
- 2 6. One (1) school district middle or high school teacher;
- 3 7. Two (2) school district classified employees; and
- 4 8. Two (2) community members from the local chamber of commerce,
- 5 business community, or tourism commission;
- 6 (e) "Student attendance day" means any day that students are scheduled to be at
- 7 school to receive instruction, and encompasses the designated start and
- 8 dismissal time;
- 9 (f) "Student instructional year" means at least one thousand sixty-two (1,062)
- 10 hours of instructional time for students delivered on not less than one hundred
- 11 seventy (170) student attendance days;
- 12 (g) "Teacher professional day" means any day teachers are required to report to
- 13 work as determined by a local board of education, with or without the
- 14 presence of students; and
- 15 (h) "Variable student instructional year" means at least one thousand sixty-two
- 16 (1,062) hours of instructional time delivered on the number of student
- 17 attendance days adopted by a local board of education which shall be
- 18 considered proportionally equivalent to one hundred seventy (170) student
- 19 attendance days and calendar days for the purposes of a student instructional
- 20 year, employment contracts that are based on the school term, service credit
- 21 under KRS 161.500, and funding under KRS 157.350.
- 22 (2) (a) Beginning with the 2018-2019 school year, and each year thereafter, the local
- 23 board of education, upon recommendation of the local school district
- 24 superintendent, shall annually appoint a school district calendar committee to
- 25 review, develop, and recommend school calendar options.
- 26 (b) The school district calendar committee, after seeking feedback from school
- 27 district employees, parents, and community members, shall recommend

1 school calendar options to the local school district superintendent for
2 presentation to the local board of education. The committee's
3 recommendations shall comply with state laws and regulations and consider
4 the economic impact of the school calendar on the community and the state.

5 (c) Prior to adopting a school calendar, the local board of education shall hear for
6 discussion the school district calendar committee's recommendations and the
7 recommendation of the superintendent at a meeting of the local board of
8 education.

9 (d) During a subsequent meeting of the local board of education, the local board
10 shall adopt a school calendar for the upcoming school year that establishes the
11 opening and closing dates of the school term, beginning and ending dates of
12 each school month, student attendance days, and days on which schools shall
13 be dismissed. The local board may schedule days for breaks in the school
14 calendar that shall not be counted as a part of the minimum school term.

15 (e) For local board of education meetings described in paragraphs (c) and (d) of
16 this subsection, if the meeting is a regular meeting, notice shall be given to
17 media outlets that have requests on file to be notified of special meetings
18 stating the date of the regular meeting and that one (1) of the items to be
19 considered in the regular meeting will be the school calendar. The notice shall
20 be sent at least twenty-four (24) hours before the regular meeting. This
21 requirement shall not be deemed to make any requirements or limitations
22 relating to special meetings applicable to the regular meeting.

23 (f) Beginning with the 2018-2019 school year, and each year thereafter, a local
24 school board of education that adopts a school calendar with the first student
25 attendance day in the school term starting no earlier than the Monday closest
26 to August 26 may use a variable student instructional year. Districts may set
27 the length of individual student attendance days in a variable student

1 instructional schedule, but no student attendance day shall contain more than
2 seven (7) hours of instructional time unless the district submitted and received
3 approval from the commissioner of education for an innovative alternative
4 calendar.

5 (3) (a) Each local board of education shall use four (4) days of the minimum school
6 term for professional development and collegial planning activities for the
7 professional staff without the presence of students pursuant to the
8 requirements of KRS 156.095. At the discretion of the superintendent, one (1)
9 day of professional development may be used for district-wide activities and
10 for training that is mandated by federal or state law. The use of three (3) days
11 shall be planned by each school council, except that the district is encouraged
12 to provide technical assistance and leadership to school councils to maximize
13 existing resources and to encourage shared planning.

14 (b) ~~[In addition to the four (4) days required under paragraph (a) of this~~
15 ~~subsection, a minimum of two (2) hours of self study review of suicide~~
16 ~~prevention materials shall be required for all high school and middle school~~
17 ~~principals, guidance counselors, and teachers each school year.~~

18 (e) A local board may approve a school's flexible professional development plan
19 that permits teachers or other certified personnel within a school to participate
20 in professional development activities outside the days scheduled in the school
21 calendar or the regularly scheduled hours in the school work day and receive
22 credit towards the four (4) day professional development requirement within
23 the minimum one hundred eighty-five (185) days that a teacher shall be
24 employed.

25 1. A flexible schedule option shall be reflected in the school's professional
26 development component within the school improvement plan or
27 consolidated plan and approved by the local board. Credit for approved

1 professional development activities may be accumulated in periods of
2 time other than full day segments.

3 2. No teacher or administrator shall be permitted to count participation in a
4 professional development activity under the flexible schedule option
5 unless the activity is related to the teacher's classroom assignment and
6 content area, or the administrator's job requirements, or is required by
7 the school improvement or consolidated plan, or is tied to the teacher's
8 or the administrator's individual growth plan. The supervisor shall give
9 prior approval and shall monitor compliance with the requirements of
10 this paragraph. In the case of teachers, a professional development
11 committee or the school council by council policy may be responsible
12 for reviewing requests for approval.

13 ~~(c)~~~~(d)~~ The local board of each school district may use up to a maximum of four
14 (4) days of the minimum school term for holidays; provided, however, any
15 holiday which occurs on Saturday may be observed on the preceding Friday.

16 ~~(d)~~~~(e)~~ Each local board may use two (2) days for planning activities without
17 the presence of students.

18 ~~(e)~~~~(f)~~ Each local board may close schools for the number of days deemed
19 necessary for:

- 20 1. National or state emergency or mourning when proclaimed by the
21 President of the United States or the Governor of the Commonwealth of
22 Kentucky;
- 23 2. Local emergency which would endanger the health or safety of children;
24 and
- 25 3. Mourning when so designated by the local board of education and
26 approved by the Kentucky Board of Education upon recommendation of
27 the commissioner of education.

- 1 (4) (a) The Kentucky Board of Education, upon recommendation of the
2 commissioner of education, shall adopt administrative regulations governing
3 the use of student attendance days as a result of a local emergency, as
4 described in subsection (3)~~(e)~~~~(f)~~2. of this section, and regulations setting
5 forth the guidelines and procedures to be observed for the approval of waivers
6 from the requirements of a student instructional year in subsection (1)(f) of
7 this section for districts that wish to adopt innovative instructional calendars,
8 or for circumstances that would create extreme hardship.
- 9 (b) If a local board of education amends its school calendar after its adoption due
10 to an emergency, it may lengthen or shorten any remaining student attendance
11 days by thirty (30) minutes or more, as it deems necessary, provided the
12 amended calendar complies with the requirements of a student instructional
13 year in subsection (1)(f) of this section or a variable student instructional year
14 in subsection (1)(h) of this section. No student attendance day shall contain
15 more than seven (7) hours of instructional time unless the district submitted
16 and received approval from the commissioner of education for an innovative
17 alternative calendar.
- 18 (5) (a) 1. In setting the school calendar, school may be closed for two (2)
19 consecutive days for the purpose of permitting professional school
20 employees to attend statewide professional meetings.
- 21 2. These two (2) days for statewide professional meetings may be
22 scheduled to begin with the first Thursday after Easter, or upon request
23 of the statewide professional education association having the largest
24 paid membership, the commissioner of education may designate
25 alternate dates.
- 26 3. If schools are scheduled to operate during days designated for the
27 statewide professional meeting, the school district shall permit

- 1 employees who are delegates to attend as compensated professional
2 leave time and shall employ substitute teachers in their absence.
- 3 4. The commissioner of education shall designate one (1) additional day
4 during the school year when schools may be closed to permit
5 professional school employees to participate in regional or district
6 professional meetings.
- 7 5. These three (3) days so designated for attendance at professional
8 meetings may be counted as a part of the minimum school term.
- 9 (b) 1. If any school in a district is used as a polling place, the school district
10 shall be closed on the day of the election, and those days may be used
11 for professional development activities, professional meetings, or
12 parent-teacher conferences.
- 13 2. A district may be open on the day of an election if no school in the
14 district is used as a polling place.
- 15 (c) All schools shall be closed on the third Monday of January in observance of
16 the birthday of Martin Luther King, Jr. Districts may:
- 17 1. Designate the day as one (1) of the four (4) holidays permitted under
18 subsection (3)(c)~~(d)~~ of this section; or
- 19 2. Not include the day in the minimum school term specified in subsection
20 (1) of this section.
- 21 (6) (a) The Kentucky Board of Education, or the organization or agency designated
22 by the board to manage interscholastic athletics, shall be encouraged to
23 schedule athletic competitions outside the regularly scheduled student
24 attendance day.
- 25 (b) Beginning with the 2009-2010 school year, any member of a school-
26 sponsored interscholastic athletic team who competes in a regional
27 tournament or state tournament sanctioned by the Kentucky Board of

1 Education, or the organization or agency designated by the board to manage
2 interscholastic athletics, and occurring on a regularly scheduled student
3 attendance day may be counted present at school on the date or dates of the
4 competition, as determined by local board policy, for a maximum of two (2)
5 days per student per year. The student shall be expected to complete any
6 assignments missed on the date or dates of the competition.

7 (c) The school attendance record of any student for whom paragraph (b) of this
8 subsection applies shall indicate that the student was in attendance on the date
9 or dates of competition.

10 (7) Students applying for excused absence for attendance at the Kentucky State Fair
11 shall be granted one (1) day of excused absence.

12 (8) Schools shall provide continuing education for those students who are determined
13 to need additional time to achieve the outcomes defined in KRS 158.6451, and
14 schools shall not be limited to the minimum school term in providing this
15 education. Continuing education time may include extended days, extended weeks,
16 or extended years. A local board of education may adopt a policy requiring its
17 students to participate in continuing education. The local policy shall set out the
18 conditions under which attendance will be required and any exceptions which are
19 provided. The Kentucky Board of Education shall promulgate administrative
20 regulations establishing criteria for the allotment of grants to local school districts
21 and shall include criteria by which the commissioner of education may approve a
22 district's request for a waiver to use an alternative service delivery option, including
23 providing services during the student attendance day on a limited basis. These
24 grants shall be allotted to school districts to provide instructional programs for
25 pupils who are identified as needing additional time to achieve the outcomes
26 defined in KRS 158.6451. A school district that has a school operating a model
27 early reading program under KRS 158.792 may use a portion of its grant money as

1 part of the matching funds to provide individualized or small group reading
2 instruction to qualified students outside of the regular classroom during the student
3 attendance day.

4 (9) Notwithstanding any other statute, each school term shall include no less than the
5 equivalent of the student instructional year in subsection (1)(f) of this section, or a
6 variable student instructional year in subsection (1)(h) of this section, except that
7 the commissioner of education may grant up to the equivalent of ten (10) student
8 attendance days for school districts that have an alternative instruction plan
9 approved by the commissioner of education for the use of alternative methods of
10 instruction, including virtual learning, on days when the school district is closed for
11 health or safety reasons, on nontraditional days, or on nontraditional time. The
12 district's plan shall demonstrate how teaching and learning in the district will not be
13 negatively impacted. Average daily attendance for purposes of Support Education
14 Excellence in Kentucky program funding during the student attendance days
15 granted shall be calculated in compliance with administrative regulations
16 promulgated by the Kentucky Board of Education.

17 (10) Notwithstanding the provisions of KRS 158.060(3) and the provisions of subsection
18 (2) of this section, a school district shall arrange bus schedules so that all buses
19 arrive in sufficient time to provide breakfast prior to the beginning of the student
20 attendance day. In the event of an unforeseen bus delay, the administrator of a
21 school that participates in the Federal School Breakfast Program may authorize up
22 to fifteen (15) minutes of the student attendance day if necessary to provide the
23 opportunity for children to eat breakfast not to exceed eight (8) times during the
24 school year within a school building.

25 (11) Notwithstanding any other statute to the contrary, the following provisions shall
26 apply to a school district that misses student attendance days due to emergencies,
27 including weather-related emergencies:

- 1 (a) A certified school employee shall be considered to have fulfilled the minimum
2 one hundred eighty-five (185) day contract with a school district under KRS
3 157.350 and shall be given credit for the purpose of calculating service credit
4 for retirement under KRS 161.500 for certified school personnel if:
- 5 1. State and local requirements under this section are met regarding the
6 equivalent of the number and length of student attendance days, teacher
7 professional days, professional development days, holidays, and days for
8 planning activities without the presence of students; and
 - 9 2. The provisions of the district's school calendar to make up student
10 attendance days missed due to any emergency, as approved by the
11 Kentucky Department of Education when required, including but not
12 limited to a provision for additional instructional time per day, are met.
- 13 (b) Additional time worked by a classified school employee shall be considered as
14 equivalent time to be applied toward the employee's contract and calculation
15 of service credit for classified employees under KRS 78.615 if:
- 16 1. The employee works for a school district with a school calendar
17 approved by the Kentucky Department of Education that contains a
18 provision that additional instructional time per day shall be used to make
19 up full days missed due to an emergency;
 - 20 2. The employee's contract requires a minimum six (6) hour work day; and
 - 21 3. The employee's job responsibilities and work day are extended when the
22 instructional time is extended for the purposes of making up time.
- 23 (c) Classified employees who are regularly scheduled to work less than six (6)
24 hours per day and who do not have additional work responsibilities as a result
25 of lengthened student attendance days shall be excluded from the provisions
26 of this subsection. These employees may be assigned additional work
27 responsibilities to make up service credit under KRS 78.615 that would be

1 lost due to lengthened student attendance days.